NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GOEDON BENNETT,

APPEOR N. W. CORNER OF NASSAU AND PULTON POL

TRANS, each in minance. Money sent by mail will be at the The Cold THERALD became not copy. If per annum. If WHERALD note Enterday, it six contepts, we be not the content of the conten Orliferents Edition on the 6th and 20th of each month at six cont.

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ADFRITSEMENTS remund every day; sévertisements incerted in the Weisser Herrard. Parier Herrard, and in the
Culformia and European Editions.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACAPENY OF MUSIC, Fourteenth street.—ITALAIN OPERA NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, Simon's Mishars-Tigger BOWERT THEATER, Bowery.—SANTA CLAUS-GOOD NATURED GENTLIMAN.—A COLORED PRESIDENT.—JACK NIEP.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, opposite Bond str

WALLACK'S THEATRY, Broadway.—EVERTSODY'S RIEND-KNOCES AND NOSES. LAURA KEENE'S THEATRE, 624 Broadway.-Green

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.- Two Highway-

FRENCH THEATRE, 595 Broadway.-Cowell's Musical BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.-After

BRYANTS' MINSTRELS, Mechanica' Ball, 472 Broadway-BURLESQUES, SONGS, DANCES, &C.—SCENES AT PHALONS.

NIBLO'S SALOON, Broadway.—Ggo. Christy's Min-streis in Songs, Dances, Buillesques, &c.—Mis. Day's New Year Calle for 1860.

WOOD'S MINSTERL'S, 444 Broadway.—Ethiopian Songs, Danger, &c.—New Year Calls. CHATHAM AMPHITHEATRE.—EQUESTRIAN PERFORM-

NEW OPERA HOUSE, 720 Broadway.—DEATTON'S PAR-

New York, Friday, December 30, 1859.

The News.

Neither the North Briton, due at Portland, with Liverpool advices to the 15th inst., nor the Canada, due at Halifax, with European news to the 18th, had arrived up to the closing of the telegraph offices last evening.

In the House yesterday the discussion on party

politics and the slavery question was renewed The monotony of the debate, however, was relieved by a colloquy between Messrs. Grow, of Pennsylvania, and Branch, of North Carolina. The affair grew out of Mr. Grow's explanations respecting the defeat of the Post Office Appropriation bill at the last session of Congress. It is thought that a duel will, perhaps, ensue between the parties. The House had another ballot for Speaker, but without effecting a choice. The democrats concentrated upon Mr. Scott, of Callfornia, who also received the votes of seven Southern opposition members. The telegraph furnishes a brief account of an at-

tempted servile insurrection in Bolivar, Missouri. outbreak was promptly suppressed by the citizens, and armed parties were scouring the surrounding country in search of the fugitives In connection with the despatch containing the particulars of the rising of the slaves, we publisha curious document, showing the contemplated field of Old Brown's operations in the slave States. This field embraced portions of Alabama, Florida, Ceorgia, Kentucky Louisianh Wissianiry's South Carolina and Tennessee. Now, it is not quite clear where the servile outbreak alluded to above occurred-whether in Missouri or Mississippi, as both States abound in Bolivars. But in the programme of Old Brown, which we publish, the town of Bolivar, Mississippi, is marked out as a spot where an insurrectionary movement would be likely to succeed. The population of this town, according to Old Brown's memorandum, consists of 395 whites and 2,160 slaves.

There was quite a jubilee among the republican of this city yesterday, consequent upon the ceremonies extending a welcome home to Wm. H. Seward from his late European tour. At half-past ten o'clock A. M., the Old Men's and Young Men's Republican Central Committees assembled in parlor No. 41 in the Astor House, where the reception ceremonies took place. The room was densely growded, and Mr. Seward entered in charge of a sub-committee. He was received with three cheers. Ex-Judge Peabody, the Chairman of the Old Men's Central Committee, welcomed him in an extempore speech, carefully refraining from making any allusion to the political events of the day. Mr. Seward made a brief reply, giving a synopsis of the remarkable characteristics of his travels, and made his preroration without alluding to the "irrepressible conflict,"

John Brown, or other kindred subjects. the ceremonies at the Astor House, Mr. Seward renaired to the City Hall, where he was met by Mayor Tiemann and other officials. when speeches were made by the Mayor and Mr. Seward. Ex-Gov. King, Hon. Truman Smith, of Ct.: Hon. Mr. Briggs, of Ohio: Henry Ward Beech er, and a host of wire pullers, hangers-on and small fry politicians made up the assemblage. The cipal getters up of the reception were James Kelly, the Receiver of Taxes, and ex-Judge Peabody, who are among the endorsers of 'Helper's treason manual." Mr. Seward left town at half-past four in the afternoon, per Hudson River Railroad, for his home at Auburn, N. Y. His son and his nephew, General Clarence Seward, accompanied him. The reception on the whole was a very formal and tame affair contrasted with the ceremonies at the departure of Mr. Seward from this country ff May last.

During the day yesterday we experienced quite a change in the atmosphere, and shortly after dark a snow storm set in with every prospect for a sea. son of sleighing. The ground is in excellent condition to receive it. The snow fell so densely on the rivers as to somewhat retard the free navigation of the ferry boats; the pilots, therefore, were obliged to use much caution in navigating their craft. Fog whistles were freely used to aid them in their

The sale of the Brooklyn ferry leases, postponed until yesterday by Comptroller Haws, was further indefinitely postponed, until the decision on the in-junction sued out by the city of Brooklyn, restraining the sale, shall be decided by the Supreme Court of Columbia county. The argument will be heard on the 5th proximo.

The examination into the case of the yacht Wan derer is going on privately before the authorities at Boston. The two Portuguese women who were decoyed on board at Flores, were examined or Wednesday last. It is stated that it does not appear thus far that any of the crew were in complicity

with the commander of the vessel.

Accounts from Brownsville, Texas, to the 20th inst., state that Cortinas had met with a defeat and had retreated. No particulars of the battle are

Capt. Williams, of the ship Gem of the Ocean which arrived at Boston from Calcutta on Wednes-day, reports that on the 18th ult., in latitude 1 south, longitude 24 west, spoke the British ship Errington, from Liverpool for Calcutts, in charge of the second

mate, the captain and mate having died from the effects of poison administered by the steward four days previously.

About half past four o'clock yesterday morning a fire was discovered in the second floor of No. 83 Ann street, extending through to Beekman street, occupied as a manufactory of gilt mouldings and looking glasses, and before it could be subdued six baildings on Beckman street and five on Ann street were totally destroyed, and several of the adjoining buildings were severely damaged. The particulars of this extensive conflagration are given in another part of to-day's paper. The loss of the sufferers is estimated at nearly half a million of

Eight citizens of Ottawa, Illinois, were indicted on Wednesday, under the Fugitive Slave law, for the rescue of an alleged fugitive slave in October

We have news from the West Coast of Africa dated Benin, the 2d of October: Old Calabar, the 1st; Lagos, the 10th, and Sierra Leone, the 21st of November. The Cameroons was in a very unsettled state in consequence of an anticipated rise of the slave population. Great sacrifice of life was feared-Dysentery was very prevalent among the Kroomen. At Bonny the Regent Illollah Popple had murdered a woman accused of witchcraft, and a civil war was feared in consequence. A large Fernando Po from Spain. Another attempt had been made to fire Lagos. Business, however, in palm oil was brisk. Cojoe, King of Accra, had been taken prisoner and confined in the fort. Trade dull at Cape Coast. Her Britannic Majesty's ship Spitfire had captured a slaver at Jacknel, with 460 slaves on board.

The sales of cotton yesterday embraced about 800 bales, chiefly in store, on the basis of 11c. for middling uplands. The firmness of holders checked sales of flour, which was in good demand from the trade, and with some purchases on speculation. Southern flour was quite steady, and the demand was fair and closed without change of momen n quotations. Wheat was inactive, and sales small at \$1 21 for Milwaukee club, and \$1 40 for Western white, and at \$1 50 a \$1 55 for prime Kentucky white. Corn was more active, and better, with tolerably free sales at quotations given in another place. Pork was heavy, with \$11 62% a \$11 75. Sugar more firm and in good demand with sales of about 900 hhds. and 360 boxes at rates given in another column. Coffee was firm, while sales were Freights were firm, with more doing, especially for Liver

The Republican Party and Its Prospects-The Reserved Conservative Vote of the North.

The return of W. H. Seward from his recent travels in Europe, Africa and Asia very naturally recalls our attention to the republican anti-slavery party, of which he is the great apostle, and to its prospects in our approaching Presidential election.

Mr. Seward will soon discover that during his absence abroad there have been some remarkable events at home, and that these events have brought about a popular reaction on the slavery question, against which it will be perfect folly on the part of the republicans to adhere to "the one idea" of his Rochester manifesto-the abolition of slavery. Indeed, we think he will also discover. before many days have passed, that there is a very strong desire and purpose among some of the republican managers again to set aside the author of said manifesto. on the ground of availability. But in any event, whether set aside or taken up as the republican candidate, we apprehend, from the present aspects of the political field, that Mr. Seward and his sectional principles will again be the defeat of his party, as in 1852 and 1856.

Some of our Southern fire-eating politicians are beginning to revive their old clamor of disunion in the event of a black republican President in 1860, and are disposed, meantime, to give up the contest in despair. They have made up their calculations upon the following basis:-That the republican party, since 1856, having held fast to the States which voted for Fremont, and having beaten down the democratic part in two successive elections in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and having divided and crippled the democracy of Indiana and Illinois so as to render the acquisition of those States an easy matter, the republican managers have the game in their own hands, and the result is a foregone conclusion.

subject. The Northern elections of the last two years have gone by default. Over half a million of voters are held in reserve-a hundred thousand and more in New York alone. The bulk of this reserved vote is conservative. and is beginning to manifest itself in Union meetings, in denunciations of Brown, Helper and Mr. Seward's "irrepressible conflict." It is a reserved vote, holding the balance of power, and awaiting the organization of the party movements of the day. New Jersey and Pennsylvania are affoat, the States which decided the election of 1856. The opposition party of New Jersey is only a fusion for local purposes, between the republicans and Know Nothings, upon a truce which has now expired. The same may be said of the people's party of Pennsylvania. It is a loose coalition of odds and ends, organized for local purposes, and wholly inapplicable for the larger necessities of a Presidential cam-

Detached from the conservative Know Nothings and old line whigs of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the republican party is reduced in those States to a paltry faction. But how are these discordant opposition elements to be combined at Chicago? "There's the rub." We fear that the task will be found as impracticable as that of fusing the Lecompton and anti-Lecompton democracy and South Americans upon a common candidate for Speaker. The Chicago Convention will most probably go just far enough on the back track to disgust the radical abolitionists, without going far enough to satisfy the conservative opposition elements of the Central States.

As matters now stand, this reserved Northern popular vote of over half a million is awaiting the order of battle for the succession Upon the broad national platform embodied in the name of General Scott, the bulk of this vote might at once be secured to a new national party; but from the dilly-dallying and shilly shallying of Know Nothing executive committees and old line whig executive committees, in the work of organization, we begin to suspect that the mass of these floating popular elements will be left to float into the democratic or republican camp. In this view of the subject, the Charleston Convention, in seizing and appropriating the democratic Union game of 1852, may recover the ground they have lost,

and carry the election. But to do all this a new democratic captain will be necessary, as well as a new platform. No outstanding, hold-over candidate, no sectional agitator, no rebellious Presidential aspiant, will answer. He must be a new man and, verify our statement. And until the foreign

as a politician, a comparative obscurity, if you choose, of the pattern of Polk and Pierce; and he must come, not from the South, not from a central State, not from the East, but from the Great West. The South, upon any reliable democratic Union candidate and platform, will vote as a unit; the East is beyond recovery but the Great West, with a Western man, may be rescued from the republicans, and Pennsyl vania, New Jersey, and even New York, may thus also be reclaimed.

The Charleston Convention will have the ad vantage of the initiative movement for the powerful reserved conservative vote of the North The democracy can afford to bid higher for it than the republicans. To this end the general progressive policy, foreign and domestic, of the President's message is the true Union piatform for the Charleston ticket. The chaffy esolutions of the Cincinnati Convention having broken up the party, something more substantial will be required to reunite it. The guiding lights of the message, the drift of the present popular reaction on the slavery question, the eserved Northern conservative vote in the Central and Western States, the trouble and alarm in the republican camp, and the great ruling popular ideas of Union, business and progress, ought to teach the Charleston Convention the way to victory.

At all events, and under any probable or ganization of parties, the chances are now against the republicans. They stand commit ted to a sectional crusade, and before the meeting of their National Convention, in June, their expected Northern allies and reinforcements may be arrayed against them. They may be routed and put down as was the old whig party in 1852, or they may fall to the ground between two stools, as in the contest against Mr. Bu-

Crime and Immorality in High Life 'Abroad.

We give in another part of this paper reports, extracted from our foreign files, of two very remarkable cases-one a civil action brought by a wealthy English commoner against a peer of the realm, the latter having been guilty of adultery with the wife of the former; and the other the trial and conviction in a French criminal court of a mother who burned her daughter's child, born out of wedlock, and under the most remarkable, not to say revolting, circumstances.

We believe that we should be quite false to our duties as American journalists did we not lay the full particulars of these cases before the public. On the one hand, we find a peer of Great Britain, a most noble Marquis, using his coronet as a means whereby to debauch the wife of his friend. The influence of the privileged class of England can hardly be understood in this country, where there is no aristocracy save that of money, and that obtaining no special respect. But an English peer is a vastly superior being to the commoner, no matter how rich, how learned or how clever the latter may be; and when this position is prostituted to base ends, the heinousness of the actual crime is proportionately increased. The shameless way in which the Marquis of Anglesey and his paramour lived together in a fashionable hotel in the centre of London recalls the history of the orgies of the titled profligates in the reigns of the Third and Fourth Georges, and presents but a sorry picture of the morals of the Daltich esisteeracy of the present day. If we look to the middle ranks of running through them, and occasionally breaking out in cases like that of Madeleine Smith, or the more recent one of Doctor Smethurst. Lower still in English life, the murder of an old man by his mistress. Maria Manning, and the scenes at the execution of the murderess, go far to prove that England, with all its glory, wealth and power, bath not yet so far emerged from barbarism that the London Times can with propriety set itself up as the teacher of a moral code to foreign nations.

The French case is horrible in its details. A young girl, brought up in the midst of luxury and refinement handsome and accomso unfortunate as to have her mind tainted by a bad book. She breaks through all moral restraint, in a manuer which seems to show that lasciviousness was with her a disease, and finally descends to an amour with a servant. who was not only vulgar, but positively ugly. This man she chooses as her husband, and bears a child by him, in order to force her mother into consenting to the marriage. The scene should now properly change to Dahomey. instead of the loveliest part of the most polite nation in the world. But we are, unhappily, dealing with facts, not fiction, and we have the horrid details of the burning of the child by the grandmother, "to save the honor of her daughter." We have not read in the annals of crime a more sad and revolting account than

that of the Lemoine infanticide. There is a special lesson in these cases which should be heeded by such journals as the London Times and the Paris Constitutionnel, which are fond of sneering at the model republic, as they call us. They are especially industrious in collating from the American newspapers all . the criminal news, and commenting upon it in the worst spirit. If a border ruffian, a thousand miles from the metropolis, shoots his comrade, the Constitutionnel immediately writes an article to show that there is no law in any part of this country, save that which is adminstered at the point of the Bowie knife or the muzzle of the revolver. If a negro, who has committed some diabolical crime, is lynched in Mississippi, the London Times straightway argues that the hanging of slaves by their masters is among the every day amusements of the Southern planter.

Now, what we say is, that this Pharasaical tone-this get thee behind me, for I am holier than thou, order of argument-is sufficiently impertinent at any time, but with such a state of morals existing among the higher classes in England and France as these recent developements seem to indicate, it is absolutely absurd The model republic is as yet a new country. To it the European governments send rogues without number. We have to keep them in order as best we can. But, with all our faults, we are still behind the French and English in cool, calm, deliberate rascality. The greater part of the premeditated crime in this country s committed by foreigners, who have fled from the vigffance of the French and English police. But among American citizens of the respectable class, we claim that there reigns a purer and better code of morals than that which obtains among the upper and middle classes of England and France. We have given to-day the facts to

these of Anglesey and Lemoine, we must maintain that the best of the argument remains on this side of the Atlantic.

THE ANGLO-GUATEMALA TREATY-THE DOLLER Business,-We print elsewhere an article from the Gaceta Oficial-an official gazette of Guatemala-which undertakes to justify the late treaty between Guatemala and Great Britain, by the terms of which the latter acquires the right of sovereignty over Belize and a large tract of country adjacent on the Bay of Hon-

Among the reasons which the Guatemala paper assigns as influencing its government to nter into the negotiations, there is one exceedingly amusing. It appears that it was a sacriice on the part of that disinterested and sympathizing government, from which the United States has received so many proofs of friendship and good will, for the purpose of healing up the differences between us and Great Britain. In other words, Guatemaia surrendered to England all that in her most grasping mood she ever laid claim to, and all to which the United States ever contested her pretensions, as an act of friendly interest, and a tribute towards the restoration of a good understand ing. This is a novel way of encouraging the intervention of friends, and will, perhaps, induce the United States to enter again into the support of Guatemalan rights against British or other aggressions. We are quite ready to agree with our astute Central American contemporary, that Guatemala was not bound in any direct way to the provisions of our convention of 1850 with Great Britain. As that convention, in part at least, was made in her interests, she might have waited for its results; for even if she never obtained any practical benefits under it, she could never be put in a worse position than that to which she has now surrendered herself voluntarily.

The strongest point in the article which we translate is decidedly that which is supported by the quotation of one of the additional articles to the treaty of 1856, negotiated between Lord Clarendon and Mr. Dallas. That treaty, fortunately, was not ratified by the Senate of the United States, and may be regarded as a repudiated and disgraced document. Its second additional article did concede, as of right to Great Britain, all to which she ever set up pretensions, and all that her convention with Guatemala secures. How Mr. Dallas ever came to admit such an article is inexplicable. It was in entire opposition to the expressed and oft-repeated views and instructions of every administration, as also opposed to the unanimous opinions of the statesmen and people of this country, and was furthermore, without doubt, an influential reason for the rejection of his treaty. We have yet to find the authority, in any document emanating from this government, for the insertion of such an article, and its admission can only be characterized as a blunder or a weakness on the part of the American negotiator. The Gazette of Guatemala may, therefore, rest assured, that the treaty of its government with Great Britain, surrendering Belize and its surrounding territories, was never contemplated by any competent authority in the United States. The carelessness or weakness of the American Minister in London cannot be taken as an interpretation of the views of the American government, especially when we find that his acts were not only in opposition to the consistent policy of that government, but were also formally repuddated by the constitutional tribunal to which they had to be submitted, and the sanction of which they had to receive, before they could become of the slightest vital force or effect.

It is said that the protest of Mr.Clark, the Ame rican Minister in Guatemala, was made without instruction or authority; but however that may be, we are sure that it is a better exposition of American sentiment and policy than the article in Mr. Dallas' treaty, by which the government of Guatemala seeks to justify its shameful surrender of its rights to British arrogance and pretension.

TRIUMPH OF THE STEAM FIRE ENGINE-REVO-LUTION IN EXTINGUISHING FIRES .- Yesterday morning, as the reader will see in another column, a fire took place in Fulton street, which destroyed property to the amount of half a million of dollars, and were it not for the operations of the steam fire engines, probably the fire would have equalled the great fire of 1845, and perhaps that of 1835, when the victorious flames achieved a conquest of twenty millions worth of property.

Hitherto a great prejudice existed in New York, particularly among the old firemen, against the innovation of the steam engine introduced here from Cincinnati, where it had been very successful. Three or four had been made here by order of the Common Council. but owing to the feeling among the firemen they have not become general. The result of the fire yesterday morning, however, has almost completely removed that prejudice, and the oldest firemen now admit the vast superiority of the steam engine over every other engine yet constructed for extinguishing fires. In the intensity of cold weather the difference is rendered still more striking, and it was owing to the accident of the excessive cold on yesterday morning that the firemen generally became convinced of the merits of the steam

The great fire in 1835 took place in the same month—the night of the 16th of December—in a store in the rear of the Merchants' Exchange. The wind was blowing fresh from the northwest, and the weather was intensely cold. It was with the greatest difficulty that the engines could be kept in working order; barrels of brandy and other spirits were kept beside the engines and emptied into the boxes to keep them from freezing. The firemen were compelled to put brandy in their boots to keep them from reezing. But every exertion failed, and it was ecessary to blow up buildings in order to arrest the progress of the fire. It raged for fifteen ours, burning over a space of fifty acres, from Wall street to Coentles slip and Broad street, a region of the city at that time covered with dry goods stores and warehouses, filled with the nost costly merchandise. Seven hundred buildings were destroyed, which, with their contents, involved a loss of twenty millions of dollars. The insurance companies were made bankrupt. Had the steam fire engines been then in ope-

ration the loss would have been comparatively small; and had they not been at work yester-day morning there is no telling how far the fire might have extended, or what the amount of the loss might have been. The steam fire engine does not depend on the weather for itselficiency. In Loudon, Cincinnati and Philadel-

papers can bring two American cases to match | phia two horses are always in harness, ready to be hitched in an instant to the engine. Only two men are absolutely necessary to bring it to the field of operations—the engineer and a man to drive the horses, riding on the back of one of them. So satisfied are the Philadelphia firemen of the superiority of the steam engine, that when an account of the fire reached them yesterday by telegraph, they sent a message here offering to bring one of their steam engines by railroad. But their friendly aid was then unnecessary, thanks to the courageous efforts of our firemen and the success of our own steam-

> Considering that during the month fires have taken place in this city destroying upwards of a million dollars worth of property, it is high time that the Common Council should establish steam fire engines all over New York. The expense is great (\$4,500 for each engine), but the number required would be comparatively small. The Hibernia Company, of Philadelphia, who paid us a visit a short time ago, and received such a splendid reception, raised the funds for their steam engine by subscription. But whatever these engines may cost the city, it will gain by them in the end.

THE NEGRO INSURRECTION IN MISSOURI-CON-

TINUATION OF THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.—It

will be seen by a telegraphic desputch from St.

Louis, in another column, that an incipient negro insurrection showed itself on Monday night in the town of Bolivar, in the slave State of Missouri. It is a remarkable fact that almost immediately after Mr. Seward made his celebrated "irrepressible conflict" speech at Rochester, John Brown's treasonable feray was organized and subsequently developed at Harper's Ferry; and that now, on the very eve of the return to this country of that great instructor of the irrepressible conflict party, a negro insurrection should break out in Missouri. Although the citizens of Bolivar succeeded by their promptitude in driving the insurgent negroes from the public square into the woods, and thus saved the town from the conflagration which the negroes threatened, it is evident that the intention was to commence then and there a negro insurrection. The negro is, in an eminent degree, an imitative animal, easily led astray, and prone always to follow the example of the white man, and though neither brave nor very excitable, is often carried away by that kind of passion for glory which led the five free negroes who accompanied John Brown to participate in an attempt in behalf of their own race. Thus the negro is often found-acting under evil influences-to commit deeds, the consequence or criminality of which he is ignorant of. It was doubtless the sympathy excited for Brown and his followers, as well as the recent action of some of the slave States with reference to the disposition of free negroes, that instigated this attempted insurrection in Mis-

But whatever the cause, or however futile the attempt, it is significant that it should have occurred just now. At all events, it shows the monstrous impudence of the republican party in Congress, in endeavoring to force a man into the position of Speaker-the third political office in the country-who endorsed the abominable doctrines of Helper's book. Helper appeals, be it remembered, to the nonslaveholding whites and free negroes of the South to rise up against the slaveholders; and this is precisely what the five free negroes of John Brown did at Harner's Ferry, and doubt less what the free negroes at Bollvar contem plated on Monday night. Yet in the face of these results of the atrocious teachings of Helper's book, and the manifest condemnation t receives from a majority of the people, the republican members of Con? gress insist upon putting into the Speaker's chair a man who recommended its circulation,

and to this day refuses to condemn its doc-

trines.

The John Brown treason, with all its bloody consequences: the recent insurrection in Boli var. Missouri; the subscriptions of money for John Brown's family, which the mans thereof do not limit to number within a million of relatives, or sympathizers; Seward's Rochester manifesto, and Helper's infamous book, are. it will be perceived, all parts of the same machinery-portions of the same programme to create a servile insurrection in the slave States, to carry out the irrepressible conflict between the contending forces of the North and South. and thus destroy the commercial prosperity of the whole country, and break up this great con federacy in a grand wreck. This is the platform upon which Mr. Sherman seems to stand in the contest for Speaker.

OUR MILITARY AFFAIRS .- The report of the Secretary of War, which we published on Wednesday in full, has probably been read with very general interest. In its statement of the numerical organization and actual strength of our army, it sets forth facts which at once explain why the predatory forays of bandits like Cortinas have been so long suffered to go unpunished Although its authorized strength is 18,165 men it appears that its actual number on the 1st of July last was but 17,498, and that out of this there were only 11,000 men in a condition to take the field. Now, taking into consideration the fact that there are 130 permanent garrisons, posts and camps to defend, scattered over an area of three millions of square miles, it must at once be evident that so small an effective force is utterly inadequate to the duties which it is called upon to perform. Although the Secretary expresses a hope that he will next season be able to make such a disposition of the troops as will prevent any further repetition of the outrages on our Southern and Mexican border, we are afraid that he will fail in accomplishing that desirable object. Until the mistake is remedied of endeavoring to meet by a neace establishment a condition of things which s in reality one of constant and active warfare. the protection afforded to our Territories must always fall far short of that which is demanded by our power and dignity, as well as of the consideration which is owing to our troops, who are exposed to greater fatigues and hardships than those of almost any other government. ACADEMY OF MUSIC-THE PATTI BENEFIT .- The weather.

siasm, or a general turn out of opera goers. Still the the Academy in every part, with a thoroughly metropo liten audience, assembled to honor an exquisite artist whose career so far has been brilliant in the extreme. whose career so far has been brilliant in the extreme. The programme for the night included the whole of "In Sennambula," with Miss Patti, Brignoll and Amodio; the first act of "In Traviata" with Mmc. Colcon and Stigelli, and the second act of "Increals Borgia" with Gazzaniga, Amodio and Stigelli. These performances have, heretofore, been noticed at length, and we have nothing to add to our previous impressions. Miss Patti sung Amina as exquisitely as ever, and improved upon her previous performance of the finale to the second act. She was fro-

quently recalled and punch petied by the public. Brigg gained special bonors, in Edviso, and Gazzaniga was as it as ever in the Lucra with The "Don Giovanni" will given to night, the last preformance of the acason.

Expected News from Europe.

Sacaville, N. B., Dec. 29—Evening.

There are yet no signs at Hahfax of the steamship Os her thirteenth day from Liverpool. NON-ARRIVAL OF THE NORTH BRITON.

There are as yet no signs of the steamship North PORTLAND, Dec. 29-11 P. M. Briton, now over due here, with Linerpool dates, vis Queenstown, of the 15th inst.

Great Union Mass Meeting in Rochester.

ROCARSTER, Dec. 29, 1859.

A large Union meeting was held in this city last even ing, which was a dressed by ex-Governor Hunt and others. The resolutions adopted were of rather a mixed character, but the principal one is the following:—

Besolved, That we cannot too strongly rebuke the ment that the election of a Freetdent by a consitutional jorky harding views of public policy with which the surprise of the principal policy with which the surprise of our Bion; we, on the contrary hold such reatments disorganizing and traitorous, edicus to all patriotic Dicke howing men, and disgraceful to the cirlination of age; and we hereby give to our fellow citizens, East, North and South, our most solem pedge that whoever be elected President of these United States, in a continual way, shall receive from us, in the lawful discharghed which we have given to each and all of his predocessors; we hereby declare our firm and unalterable purpose to tain and protect him in he lawful discharge of these drom all enemies within or without, at home or abroad. There was an effort to lay this resolution on the lawful tresolution on the lawful to lay this resolution on the lawful to the present the second of these drom and enemies within or without, at home or abroad.

There was an effort to lay this resolution on the table, but it passed by a large majority, and the meeting at

The Fugitive Slave Law.
INDICTMENT AGAINST EIGHT CITIZENS OF OTTAWA.
ILLINOIS.
CHICAGO, Dec. 29, 1859.
The Grand Jury of the United States District Court last evening found an indictment, under the Fugitive Slave law, against eight citizens of Ottawa, Illinois, for the rescue of an alleged slave in that city in October last.

News from New Mexico.

INDEPENDENCE, Dec. 29, 1889.

The New Mexican mail, with dates of the 5th inst., arrived here to day. The Navajo Indians are again hostile, having killed one man and wounded others, who went to trade with them. The outgoing mail, which left here four weeks ago, was attacked by the Indians beyond the Arakansa river. An escort was with the mail and the Indians were repulsed. None of the mail party were hurt. This mail came with More & Reese's train to the crossing of the Arkansas, and from thence by the air line; no Indians were seen. The mail party experienced very cold weather, and their mules were kept from freezing with dimculty.

News from Brownsville.

New ORLEANS, Dec. 29, 1859.

The steamship Arizona is below. She brings 3150,000 in specie and Brownsville dates of the 20th inst. Cortinal had met with a defeat, and he had retreated. No further particulars are given.

Personal Movements.

C. C. Meminger, appointed by the Governor of South Carolina as Special Commissioner to Virginia, has accepted the office. Senator Wigfall, of Texas, has arrived here. He leaves for Washington in the morning.

The Norombega Bank.

The Norombega Bank been put in the hands of re-ceivers, and its alfairs wound up. The cashier has loaned apparently some \$20,000, without the knowledge of the president and directors. The circulation is stated at \$75,000, but the Bank Commissioners think it will all be

The Philadelphia Committee of Bondholders and Board of Directors of the Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad, after a very harmonious session, have agreed upon W. B. Ogden, of Chicago, as receiver of the road. J. P. Edgerton, the receiver appointed by the Ohio courts, has resigned.

Loss of the Ship Heldelberg. New ORIEANS, Dec. 29, 1859. The ship Maritana, from Genoa, has arrived here. St has on board the crew of the ship Heidelberg, which sunk on the 22d inst.

THURSDAY, Dec. 23—8 A. M.

Montreal—Weather very cold and clear; thermometer
17° below zero. The river frozen opposite the city.
Boston—Thermometer 3° below zero; weather clear; ios
rapidly forming in the bay.
Rouse's Point—Thermometer 30° below zero.
St. Johnsbury—Thermometer 30° below zero.
Ogdensbury—Thermometer 23° below zero.
White River Junction—Thermometer 24° below zero.
Hudson, N. Y.—Shortly before sunrise the thermometer
stood 14° below zero.

Markets.

Cotton easier, but hely questly lower sales to de-

Monus, Dec. 28, 1859. Cotton firmer: sales to day 6,500 bales; middling 10160 Cotton firm: sales 1,800 bales. Augusta, Dec. 28, 1859. Cotton unchanged: sales 590 bales.

Flour firm: sales 2,500 bbls. superfine at \$5 50. Wheat active; red \$1.83 a \$1.35; white \$1.40 a \$1.45. Corn declined: sales 1,000 bushels at 75c. for new yellow. Whiskey 2614c. a 274c.

Flour unchanged. Whiskey dull and declined \(\)\(\)\(\) Corn firm. Hogs firm and demand fair: sales to-day 1.700 at 36 a \$6 30. Receipts to-day 12,000. Mess pork \$16. Bulk meats 6c. on the spot, and 8c. for future delivery. Lard held firmly at 10c.

The Sunken Steam

sunk on Wednesday night, by coming in contact with masses of floating ice in the North river, lies sunk off the end of pier No. 30 North river, foot of Chambers street. The vessel lies in an inclined position, the forward part being pretty well out of water, and the stern and quarterdeck completely under water, and the stern and quarter-deck completely under water. The cargo consists of fifty-eight bales of cotton, two hundred barrels or flour, twenty-five barrels of stearine and twenty-five barrels of clarified sugar, brought from New Orleans. The cargo is materially dama but the loss is fairly covered by insura The damage to the vessel and equipments caunot be ascertained until the vessel shall have been raised, but it presumed it cannot fall short of from six to eight thousand dollars-fully insured.

Yesterday the insurance companies had charge of the vessel, and were preparing two powerful steam pumps for the purpose of clearing and floating her.

Among the sufferers by the affair were the sailors, waiters and diremen, who lost all their clothes and valua-The Granada is advertised to sail on the 4th prox.; but

it is not probable she will be ready at that time; if not, the Ariel will supply her place and sail on the 6th prox for Hayana and New Orleans. CENTRAL PARE SEATING POND .- The pond was in excel-

kent condition yesterday, to which fact the hundreds who spent the day there can testify. Indeed, on no day this season has it been in such apple-pie order. Although the weather is still evidently a little too cold, yet the number at the pend was large in comparison to Wednesday.

There were as many as half-a-dozen curing clubs on the ice playing at this favorite game, which, by the by, does not appear to meet with as much favor as might be supposed, from its nature, it would. Let all, however, who posed, from its nature, it would. Let all, however, who refuse to see anything in it, just participate in a game, and they will be convinced that it is a superior game, and one well calculated to bring their muscles into play—an all important consideration to Young America. The number of lads at the pond yesterday was very large. It is truly astoniahing to see with what rapidity they learn to skate and put older faces to the blush. Some of them can cut an 8 or an eagle with "the first man," and one young fellow who has certainly not seen more than thirteen summers, could, with his skates, write his name on the ice with wenderful correctness and case. Our reporter, who with wonderful correctness and case. Our reporter, who donned a pair of skates on the occasion of his visit yester-day, was put completely to the blush by lads to whom he might in all beneaty, as far as years go, bear the relation of parent. In short, let all who know not how to state buy a pair and learn; and let all those who have known how, brush up their practice. It is said there have been sold in this city, up to this time, over half a million pairs of skates. Who would not like to be in the business?

Arrivals and Departures.

For Liverpool, in statemahly America, from Boates Castner, Edw. J. Nickeyson, Capt. W. Peterson, S. and daughter, Mr B. Forbes, Boaton; Mrs Studin Rozbury; Wm Campbell, Pravidence; A. Ludwig, I. Bopulo, New York; John Morris, wife and two distributions of the Capt. Capt Sumeriand, Robert Hamilton, England, I. avrot, Switzerland; G. D. Uurquiota, Anton. For Halifax—Win Mechan, Duncan B. Boston, J. H. Upton, J. L. More, New York Win Mel. Sod., California: La Horne, Royal lo, Glovacora, W.